(b) if so, what are the functions of the Urban Improvement Department?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic responsibilities of the Department will be in the following areas :—

(i) Improvement of Slum Areas.

(ii) Resettlement colonies.

(iii) J.J. Clusters.

(iv) Unauthorised colonies.

The Department would be the focal point of all activities relating to urban imorovement and carry forward the programme of urban basic services.

Hashish smuggling in Maruti Gypsy of the Jammu and Kashmir Government

*229. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of persons apart from the two constables arrested in Delhi, Srinagar and other places, who have been found involved in the smuggling of hashish in a Maruti Gypsy of the Government of J&K impounded in January, 1990 and with what international connections; and

(b) the action taken and proposed to be taken against each one?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) Investigations conducted by the Delhi Police so far do not show the involvement of any person apart from the two constables already arrested. Investigations have not also revealed any international connection.

(b) The two constables were arrested and a criminal case registered.

Bomb Blast in Chandigrah Express

*231. SHRI ANAND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of casualties in the March 1 bomb blast in Chandigarh Express and subsequent blasts in Ambala ; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure safety in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) According to information available, no case of bomb explosion in Chandigarh Express on 1-3-1990 has come to notice. However, blast had occurred on that date in the Chhantisgarh Express in which five persons died and 17 passengers sustained injuries.

In the Bomb blast at Ambala in the Shalimar Express, three persons were killed and 20 persons were injured.

(b) State Government concerned take necessary steps to ensure safety and security of passengers depending upon the situation in each State. These steps include anti-sabotage checks, police armed escorts in trains patrolling of platforms and railway tracks etc. Passengers are also warned through public address system and posters not to touch any suspicious unclaimed articles/substances.